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NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Number 1 October, 1973

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During the past several months, many individuals and organizations have asked to be apprised of the activities of the Commission on Post-Secondary Education. This newsletter is our first attempt to communicate with those who have expressed an interest in following and participating in the work of the Commission. The summaries, while brief, will give some idea of what is going on and we ask our readers to let us know how we can keep them better informed.

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Commission Members

Our Commission Members come from various sectors in the state and from a variety of stations in life. So that you may contact them to present your views and ideas, we are listing their names and mailing addresses.

From the outset, the Commission has been viewed as the instrument for mobilizing the time, talent and energies of all Montanans in designing a more effective system of post-secondary education for the future. Since the Commission's inception it has had two general meetings, has been involved in developing operational policies and procedures, coordinating activities, analyzing information and proposals and adopting a five-phase outline and schedule for the study of post-secondary education in Montana.

Phase 1. Identification of Issues and Problems
Adoption of Study Plan (July-September, 1973)

Phase 2. Information gathering (October, 1973 - May, 1974)

Phase 3. Draft Report (June-July, 1974)

Phase 4. Public Hearings on Draft Report (August-September, 1974)

Phase 5. Adoption of Final Report (October-November, 1974)

COMMISSION ON POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

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Study Projects

Several Technical Advisory Committees have been appointed by the Executive Committee for the purpose of collecting and synthesizing data. The groups consist of experts in various aspects of Montana post-secondary education. Members are not considered as institutional representatives but as resource persons responsible to the Commission for collecting information relevant to state policy issues. These groups will work toward drafting a final report of their studies by May 1, 1974.

The Technical Committees are as follows:

- Accountability
- Adult and Continuing Education
- Faculty Research
- Fiscal and Budgetary Inofrmation
- Independent Higher Education
- Manpower Planning and Post-Secondary Education
- Programmatic Planning
- Relationships Between Post-Secondary Institutions
- Relationships Between Secondary Education and Post-Secondary Institutions
- Student Enrollment, Admissions, Retention and Progress
- Survey Research (Student characteristics, Institutional Goals Inventory)

The staff, too, will undertake some "in house" studies dealing with substantive issues in post-secondary education. A list of these studies will appear in a subsequent newsletter.

Anyone wishing to address himself to these issues or any issues outlined in the Study Plan, is asked to do so in writing. All input -- suggestions, recommendations -- can be addressed to:

Commission on Post-Secondary Education
201 East 6th Avenue - Suite 5
Helena, MT 59601

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An Education in PSE

"The American Association for Higher Education invites you to any one of over fifty regional conferences this fall on THE LEARNING SOCIETY: RESPONDING TO A BUYER'S MARKET.

"A look at how new developments in post-secondary education affect teaching, learning and managing in all kinds of educational programs and institutions--public and private, traditional and non-traditional, tax-paying and tax-exempt."

Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell is hosting the conference for Montana on November 8, 1973. AAHE members pay no registration fee, however, non-members must pay a fee of $10.00. Further information can be obtained from the Flathead Valley Community College.

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Commission Reports*

Title	Author	Availability
Staff Report #1 Review of Prior Studies of Post-Secondary Education	Staff	Currently
Staff Report #2 Montana Post-Secondary Education: Issues and Questions A Summary of Correspondence	Staff	Currently
Staff Report #3 Montana Public Post-Secondary Education Tody	Staff	December 1, 1973
Study Plan	Commission	Currently

*(Single copies are available upon request from the Office of the Commission on Post-Secondary Education)

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Study Plan Adopted

The Study Plan has been completed and was adopted by the Commission at their meeting of October 1, 1973. The plan calls for a comprehensive and thorough examination of Montana post-secondary education and identifies such policy issues as the following:

- What goals, objectives and priorities should be set for the future of Montana post-secondary education?
- How should responsibility for meeting the state's post-secondary education goals be divided among our institutions?
- Should traditional campus-type units continue to be the primary post-secondary delivery systems in Montana?
- How effective is counselling in advising potential students of the range of post-secondary educational offerings available to them?
- Are there sufficient opportunities for time-shortened degrees and certificates (e.g., 3-year B.A.; challenge examinations, etc.)?
- What are the current and potential opportunities for expanding the range of educational opportunities through agreements with other states or Canadian provinces?
- How can financial responsibility for post-secondary education be allocated so as to achieve our goals?

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